Industry/Product group	Weight	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Machinery and equipment other than transport equipment	9.6	7.3	1.3	1.6
Transport equipment & Parts	4.0	-2.0	6.8	14.6
Other manufacturing Industries	2.6	11.6	8.9	0.1

Manufacturing of cheapest CTV and refrigerators

486. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has become the cheapest manufacturing base for colour televisions and refrigerators in the world, beating even China by a few dollars in the race; and

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The major color television, refrigerator brands such as LG, Samsung, Philips, Whirlpool, BPL, Onida, Videocon etc. have witnessed substaintial growth in the production and sale in the recent past.

The Indian industry have reduced cost of production by restructuring through production process based on the best practices, better supply chain management and increased use of information and communication technology. The industry has also further taken the advantages of the availability of large pool of trained and skilled manpower in the country.

Trade fair in Beijing

†487. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a trade fair of Indian made items was organised in Beijing recently as a result of follow up action of the Prime Minister's recent China visit; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the success achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) had organised a trade fair in Beijing, during October 2003. Over 100 Indian companies participated in the fair and depicted information about Information Technology, Tourism, India's economic strengths, iron & steel, auto parts, textiles, Indian Health Care Industry, manufacturing design and development, communications, cement and Indian capabilities from small, medium & large sectors. The fair is expected to help in bridging the information gap between the businessmen of two countries, strengthening people to people contact and promoting trade between the two countries.

Benefits of US generalised system of preferences

488. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has managed to convince Washington to restore the benefits under the US generalised system of preferences for about 850 agricultural, chemicals and pharmaceutical products from the country;

(b) if so, whether the US Government was urged to bring these items within the purview of the GSP scheme;

(c) if so, the US Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether the GSP is extended by the US to 140 developing countries, including India; and

(e) if so, to what extent this decision has been implemented and helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) US Government presently denies Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) benefits to about 850 agricultural, chemicals and pharmaceutical products from India. These products are eligible for GSP benefits from other countries and India's request for early restoration of GSP benefits on